

REMARKS

This paper is filed as a preliminary amendment in the above captioned patent application, which is contemporaneously filed under 35 USC §371 along with this paper from international application PCT/US2004/021692.

With this amendment, the specification is to be amended by including the cross reference to the related applications as indicated above. A clean copy of the amendment is attached hereto.

The claims as filed are also amended with this paper. The original claims 1-47 are amended by canceling, without prejudice to prosecution of such claims in later filed cases, claims 9-13, 15, 23-26, 29-34, and 37-47; and amending claims 8, 22, and 35. It is believed that the amendments to the claims add no new matter, and are fully supported by the specification as filed. With these amendments, claims 1-9, 14, 16-22, 27-28, and 35-36 are pending in the application, and claims 1,6-7, 14, 16, 21 and 27 are independent claims.

It is respectfully requested that the above referenced amendments to the specification and claims be entered into the case, and that the pending claims be examined on their merits. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney should any further action be required for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy K. Ball', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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